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Applicant: Zeev Zalevsky et al.

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For: A METHOD AND DEVICE FOR POLARIZATION-BASED ALL-OPTICAL
SWITCHING (AMENDED)

Art Unit: 2874

Examiner: WOOD, Kevin S.

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington DC 20231

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

Further to an office action dated April 4, 2002, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Kindly replace the title with:

A Method and Device for Polarization-Based All-Optical Switching.

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claims 1, 4, 5, 16, 45 and 55.

Kindly replace claims 2, 3, 6, 9-15, 17, 20, 21, 24-26, 31, 39-42, and 46-54 with the following claims in clean form and add new claims 56-60:

2. (Amended) A switching method for selectively directing an input beam to at least one of two output channels, the method comprising:

- a1
- (i) providing incidence of the input beam onto a polarizing beam splitting surface to thereby enable splitting of the input beam into two beam components of different polarizations propagating along different optical paths;
 - (ii) passing the input beam components of different polarizations through a controllable polarization rotating medium operable to selectively affect the polarization of each of the beam components; and
 - (iii) directing the beam components that have passed through the polarization rotating medium onto said polarizing beam splitting surface, thereby